

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 through 12 are pending, with Claims 1 and 10 through 12 being independent. Claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 10 through 12 have been amended.

The drawings were objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) on the grounds that “12-C” has been used to designate both the list box which displays a list of member printers and the priority button used to change priority in Fig. 19. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the filing herewith of one replacement sheet of formal drawings comprising Fig. 19, in which the rightmost instance of “12-c” has been changed to --12d-- which avoids the grounds of objection.

The disclosure was objected to and the Official Action suggested that page 43, line 10, “161” be changed to --121--. This kind suggestion has been adopted.

Claims 2 through 5 and 7 were objected to for informalities. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the adoption of the kind suggestions set forth in the Official Action.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being non-statutory. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claim in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of rejection, viz, the claim has been amended to recite that the program is --stored on an apparatus-readable storage medium--.

Claims 1 through 12 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over US 2003/0053106 A1 (Kuroda, et al.), taken alone or in combination with US 2003/0123081 A1

(Iwasaki), with Claim 5 having been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the combination. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has incorporated Claim 5 into Claim 1 (and has amended the other independent claims in like fashion), and is filing herewith a sworn translation of Japanese Patent Appln. No. 2002-378677 filed December 26, 2002, from which the subject application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and which application pre-dates the March 20, 2003 publication date of Kuroda, et al., thereby precluding application of that document under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). MPEP 201.15. In conjunction with such a filing, Applicant respectfully states under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) that:

Kuroda, et al. and the invention of the subject
application were commonly owned or subject to
common assignment at the time the invention of the
subject application was made.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kuroda, et al. does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c); "Guidelines Setting Forth a Modified Policy Concerning the Evidence of Common Ownership, or an Obligation of Assignment to the Same Person, as Required by 35 U.S.C. 103(c)," 1241 O.G. 96 (Dec. 26, 2000). Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 through 12 should be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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